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C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 001319

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TAGS: [PREL](#) [MARR](#) [PARM](#) [ARF](#) [RS](#)
SUBJECT: ASEAN REGIONAL FORUM: DEMARCHE ON U.S.
INITIATIVES DELIVERED

REF: STATE 33907

Classified By: Political M/C Alice G. Wells. Reasons: 1.4(B/D).

¶1. (C) We previewed reftel U.S. initiatives to be tabled at the Helsinki ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) meeting with Dmitriy Lukiyantsev, a Counselor in the MFA's Department of ASEAN and Asia Pacific Regional Affairs. Lukiyantsev said the GOR was interested in encouraging the ARF to be more responsive to new threats and challenges and noted Moscow's longstanding interest in non-proliferation issues. He promised to inform the Department Director, who will attend the March 28-30 Helsinki meeting, about the U.S. initiatives.

¶2. (C) Lukiyantsev identified Russia's top ARF priority this year as securing adoption of an ARF Chairman's statement endorsing "inter-civilizational dialogue." The GOR views ARF endorsement of a dialogue as an important step for the organization's counterterrorism efforts. Russia will provide a short presentation on the statement in Finland and hoped for a more substantive discussion at the May 25 Senior Officials Meeting, with adoption of the statement at the August ministerial. Lukiyantsev said that Japan and Singapore had already provided the GOR with a favorable reaction to an early draft.
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